

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. December 1876. My darling Alec:

How can I thank you enough for your letter received a few minutes ago. I have been feeling that many men would not easily forgive such want of trust as I showed, and though I did not distrust you again so much as to suppose you would not forgive me still I felt you would be quite justified in doing so. And your letter with it's perfect love and not one word of reproach as touched me very closely. Thank you very, very much. It is dreadfully hard to wait until Friday for your coming and when you do come dreadfully hard to let you go. I am so sorry if my letter shortened your stay at home, indeed I am so sorry if my letter shortened your stay home, indeed I am so sorry i ever sent that ill-fated epistle. I regreted it the moment it went.

I received your telegram at the same time. What does it mean? As I feel now it may mean that you are going to the Antipodes and I would not say a word or allow a word to be said against it. Even if Papa did not know!

I am excited in an hurry, tired and altogether please excuse gramatical errors.

Many thanks for your Xmas letter, Mamma laughed over it until the tears ran down her cheeks, and she made me show it to Grandpa. Is Grandpa not lovely, while Grandma lived he always gave her all the gold he earned for a days work at the Mutual, and she gave us Grandchildren and children our birthday and Christmas money out of it, also sent us presents whenever any one came to see her. Now she has gone Grandpa means to go on putting gold in her box and giving it to us, so long as he lives Mamma proposes that we

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should put our money into silver as it will always keep and always be Grandma's present, and always of the same value.

Today I bought a pretty cheese knife with my money and had it marked with Grandma's name, I think it a lovely idea. Today Mamma and Auntie began giving and portioning out Grandma's things, it seem Grandma was all ready, and had already told her daughters how she wanted everything divided. And it is so lovely the way each one religiously follows out her wishes. I think they are such lovely daughters of a lovely Mother. I wish you could see some of Grandpa's letter of condolence, they are all so full of love and admiration, for dear Grandma, of her love and thoughtfulness for everyone, her remembrance of the far away Lynn poor when she lay dying, and her remembrance of this world fast leaving her.

Grandpa warming his back at the fire is talking away to cousin Emily Huntington, a poor second cousin of his who earns a scanty support teaching children as poor as herself, and supporting an aged invalid mother. Grandma said she was the woman she most respected and she was always so kind to her, Cousin Emily's name is always associated with her memory.

Goodnight dear and thank you again for your letter and I shall not regret my mistake for it has taught me to love and trust and know you better than ever.

Ever your loving, May.